

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

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BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, September 29, 2004
Senior Center, 27 Maple Street
First Floor Conference Room
3:30 pm

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Carole Allen (Chair), Mr. Gregory Leonardos

*Staff in Attendance: Christine Connolly (Director of Public Health), Denise Boucher,
Health Inspector*

- I. Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2004 were accepted as read.
- II. Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2004 were accepted as read.

III. VIOLATION HEARING: TIKI IN

Health Inspector Denise Boucher proceeded to point out that there have been continued violations going on for some time at Tiki In. Ms. Boucher stated, that last year at approximately the same time, Tiki In was brought before the board for critical violations of the food code. At that time, it was required that Ray Wong, Food Manager, go to the Food Safety Training which he did and passed the exams. Ms. Boucher stated that despite the action taken last year, violations continue. Some of the problems consisted of mouse droppings, broken food containers, not sanitized. Cleanliness issues such as hand sink being used only for food, no paper towels and soap, pest control issues continued, there were mouse droppings in the kitchen; and using food containers that may be broken, dirty and not using certified food containers. Betty Wong, the new manager stated she intends to make corrections and send employees to Chinese speaking food safety training. Ms Wong stated that they are making progress in making changes with help and are changing the exterminator company and that the hole that was in the door had been patched. Ms. Boucher stated that there were consultants hired to assist with food inspections this summer, inspectors visited Tiki In on August 2nd, 16th, 25th and during each inspection numerous violations were documented. Ms. Boucher stated that although she tries to educate establishments on food safety to a certain degree, that food establishments have the responsibility to maintain the minimum standards of food preparation. Ms. Wong stated that she has hired a consultant to help her at Tiki In. Ms. Boucher presented photographs from a recent

inspection to the Board. The photographs were of utensils with dried and encrusted food, dirty cardboard on shelves and in walk-in refrigerator. Ms. Boucher stated that there were wiping cloths on the counter, not soaking in sanitizer as required. Ms. Connolly stated that when Tiki In appeared before the Board last year, the Board warned Tiki In that future violations would result in a two-week suspension, but to keep in line with other recent restaurant suspensions, recommended a three day suspension to the Board with future violations requiring a two week suspension. Ms. Connolly stated that food inspections are very costly to the department and when a restaurant begins to require additional inspections, they are taking resources from other areas of the department. Ms. Connolly also recommended that the Board require monthly inspections of the establishment with a \$100 per inspection fee to pay for the inspector to carry out the inspection. The Board unanimously voted to suspend the Tiki In food permit for three days and required monthly inspections for a fee of \$100 per inspection for three months and warned that additional critical violations would result in a follow-up hearing. The Board agreed to suspend the permit beginning the following Monday from the hearing for three consecutive days.

IV.

VIOLATION HEARING: SUN'S CHINESE KITCHEN

Denise Boucher outlined brief history of compliance at the establishment and stated that there was an administrative hearing with Mr. Zang and his wife, Ms. Wong, with regard to violations that occurred in January 2004, this hearing took place with Denise. At the time of the administrative hearing Ms. Boucher gave the owners the option of hiring a consultant to assist them to come into compliance with the food code, or send a full time restaurant staff person to food safety training. Ms. Boucher stated that Ms. Wong chose to attend the food safety training. Despite the food safety training, Ms. Boucher stated that violations continued and that during a recent inspection, one of the employees was cutting raw chicken and then going immediately to the wok without washing hands and another critical violation that she saw that needed immediate attention was a staff member who had a knife and was cutting chicken and instead of doing the proper wash, rinse and sanitize, he rinsed the knife under water, wiped it and put it back in storage. Ms. Boucher stated that during the inspection she found a cutting board with mold growth on it, containers encrusted and non-food grade, hot holding temperatures were not sufficient to control bacteria growth, cross contamination and food contact surface violations as well as general cleanliness violations. Ms. Boucher stated that she recommends a three-day suspension of the food permit. Ms. Wong stated that she tried to teach the chef about sanitizing. Ms. Boucher stated that in addition to recommending that the owners hire a consultant to help them, she believes that they should look into installing a dishwasher. Dr. Allen restated the proposed vote, a three day suspension of the food permit to begin the following Monday as well as monthly inspections at a fee of \$100 for three months. The board unanimously voted to approve.

- V. Ms. Connolly updated the Board on the recent tobacco compliance check which had been done on Monday September 27, 2004. During the check, Ms. Connolly sent a 16 year old female into all permitted establishments and two establishments sold tobacco to the minor, Punjab Food and Spices and Stop and Shop. Both of these establishments will be at a hearing during the next meeting.
- VI. Ms. Connolly updated the Board on the 60 Bow Street property. Ms. Connolly stated that the exterior of the home had been addressed by the owner, there had been a dumpster on the property for longer than was initially allowed by the Board of Selectmen and the Police Department began ticketing the owner daily until the dumpster was removed. Ms. Connolly stated that she and John Maher, Town Counsel would pursue the issue regarding the interior of the property in the near future and an update would be made at an upcoming meeting.

Meeting Adjourned